

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00338 241225Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
 USIA-06 /071 W
 -----015917 250716Z /13

R 241130Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4177
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDKAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0338

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BU, CH, XH
SUBJECT: BULGARIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS

1. EMBASSY HAS HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE INFORMATION ON BULGARIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS. DEPT MAY WISH TO SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS SUBJECT FURTHER WITH AMBASSADOR GRIGOROV, GIVEN HIS EXPERTISE IN THAT AREA AND RECENT SERVICE AS AMBASSADOR IN PEKING. MEANWHILE, FOLLOWING ITEMS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST ARE NOTED.

2. CHINESE AMBASSADOR SOFIA, MENG YUEH, DEPARTED HERE ON OCT 16 AND HAS NOT RETURNED. CHINESE CHARGE BAI CHOOU MIAN RECENTLY TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT THERE IS AT THE PRESENT TIME NO PLAN FOR MENG YUEH'S RETURN.

3. ON OCCASION SOVIET ARMED FORCES DAY RECEPTION, FEB 23, CHINESE CHARGE TOOK THE INITIATIVE FOR AN EXTENDED
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CONVERSATION WITH THE AMBASSAODR. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN BULGARIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS (A SUBJECT WHICH HE HAD SOMETIME EARLIER ALSO RAISED WITH THE DCM), BUT ALSO MADE SOME COMMENTS ON BULGARIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS. HE CHARACTERIZED CHINESE-BULGARIAN RELATIONS AS "BAD", AND WITHOUT PROSPECT FOR EARLY IMPROVEMENT. HE RELATED THIS DIRECTLY TO THE STATE OF SINO-SOVIET RELATIONS, AND

INDICATED THAT CHINESE EFFORTS TO IMPROVE CONTACTS IN BULGARIA, AND ELSEWHERE IN EASTERN EUROPE WITH COUNTRIES CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE SOVIET UNION, HAD NOT BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. (SEE 77 MOSCOW 17607 ALSO.) PRESUMABLY HIS CHARACTERIZATION OF THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INVOLVED WAS A FORMULATION INTENDED TO NOT COVER ROMANIA, AS WELL AS YUGOSLAVIA. HE DID NOT MENTION SPECIFICS EXCEPT TO INDICATE, IN CONTRAST TO THE RECENT SUCCESSFUL PAPAZOV VISIT TO THE US, AN ABORTIVE CHINESE EFFORT TO DEVELOP SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGE CONTACTS BETWEEN CHINA AND BULGARIA.

4. OCCASIONAL QUERIES TO SENIOR BULGARIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN RECENT MONTHS ON BULGARIAN-CHINESE RELATIONS HAVE ELICITED NOTHING BEYOND GENERAL STATEMENTS THAT SUCH RELATIONS WERE SATISFACTORY, BUT NOT PARTICULARLY GOOD. IT IS CLEARLY A SUBJECT ON WHICH THE BULGARIANS HAVE NOTHING THEY WISH TO SAY TO US.
GARTHOFF

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